recommended more operational autonomy to the Defence-PSUs and corporatization of the Ordanance Factories. The focus of the recommendations made by the Committee is on the following:

(i) Bring in changes in management enabling the Ordanance Factories and Defence PSUs to have greater freedom and to become global players in Defence Production and be able to effectively perform the role of designer and integrator of large systems and platforms, enabling them to build consortium of industries around them for product development and production.

(ii) Give greater freedom to Defence PSUs to form joint ventures, consortiums and to do cross investment in foreign companies for the purpose of obtaining technology.

(iii) Adopt Vendor Development policies in all Defence PSUs on the lines currently being followed by HAL.

(iv) Inject greater professionalism in the organization of Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) for effective quality assurance in manufacturing, largely involving process audit and quality surveillance work.

The recommendations made by the Committee are under examination of the Government. Government will take a final view only after the examination of the recommendations is completed.

Armed Forces Tribunal

767. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the long standing demand of the armed forces to have Armed Forces Tribunal has been cleared by the Government;

(b) if so, what are the terms of reference given to the proposed Tribunal;

(c) whether the cases of armed forces personnel pending in various High Courts are going to be transferred to the proposed Tribunal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Government has taken a decision for setting up of the Armed Forces Tribunal.

(b) The proposed Armed Forces Tribunal shall adjudicate upon the disputes and complaints with respect to commission, appointment enrolment, condition of service in respect of persons subject to the Army Act 1950, the Navy Act 1957 and the Air Force Act 1950 and also appeals arising out of orders, findings/sentence of Courts Martial held under the said Acts.

(c) and (d) It will be the prerogative of the High Court to remit such cases to the Tribunal for redressal of grievances.

Maritime Patrol Aircraft

768.SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India with 7,516 kms of coastline, 1197 islands and 2.01 millions of Exclusive Economy Zone does not have a single latest long range maritime patrol aircraft operating;

(b) if so, whether this proposal is there in the Tenth Defence Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Indian Navy has the adequate number of aircraft to meet the requirement for long range maritime patrolling. Some of these are undergoing up- gradation by refurbishment and modernisation during the Tenth Defence Plan to enhance their capabilities keeping in view the latest technological advancements.

Installation of Bio-Digesters in Siachen

769.SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Army has installed bio-digesters capable of burning human waste to address growing pollution on the Siachen glacier;

(b) if so, the details of how these bio-digesters help in arresting environmental pollution at Siachen; and

(c) the cost of installing bio-digesters?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Six bio-digesters capable of decomposing wastes have been installed at various locations in the Siachen sector. These bio-digesters contain filtering system and a soaking pit. The heavy particles containing